

b) a means for conducting an electric current on the surface of said refractory core.

22. The composite refractory stopper in claim 21 wherein said refractory core is essentially composed of ceramic oxides.
23. The composite refractory stopper in claim 21 wherein said refractory core is essentially composed of metal carbides.
24. The composite refractory stopper in claim 21 wherein said refractory core is essentially composed of a combination of ceramic oxides, metal carbides and elemental carbon.
25. The composite refractory stopper in claim 24 wherein said elemental carbon is in the form of graphite or carbon black.
26. The composite refractory stopper in claim 21 wherein the said means of conducting an electric current on the surface of the core is an electrically conductive coating.
27. The composite refractory stopper in claim 26 wherein the said electrically conductive coating is essentially composed of elemental carbon.
28. The composite refractory stopper in claim 27 wherein the said elemental carbon is in the form of graphite or carbon black.
29. The composite refractory stopper in claim 27 wherein said electrically conductive coating includes a bonding material that positively affixes said electrically conductive coating to the surface of said refractory core at temperatures less than 950 degrees Fahrenheit and continues to affix said electrically conductive coating to the surface of said refractory core at temperatures above 950 degrees Fahrenheit.
30. The composite refractory stopper in claim 29 wherein said bonding material positively affixes said electrically